

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 1022 – SB 943

April 5, 2011

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS (004749, 005641): Removes Greene County from the list of counties exempt from the transfer of probate jurisdiction from the County Clerk to the Clerk and Master.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase Local Expenditures - \$20,000/One-Time*
\$36,800/Recurring*

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:

Unchanged from the corrected fiscal note.

Assumptions applied to amendments:

- If Greene County's exemption is removed, probate jurisdiction will be transferred from the Greene County Clerk to the Greene County Clerk and Master.
- According to the Greene County Clerk and Master, one-time startup costs include computer support totaling \$14,892 (\$13,557 for document imaging software, \$885 for a computer workstation, and \$450 for training) and initial office set-up costs totaling \$5,000 (office equipment, dedicated phone line, and storage units) resulting in an estimated one-time increase in local expenditures of \$19,892 (\$14,892 + \$5,000).
- According to the Greene County Clerk, the Greene County Commission could transfer one full-time position and related office supplies budget from the clerk's office to the clerk and master's office.
- According to the Greene County Clerk and Master, one additional full-time position (\$20,000 salary and \$6,800 benefits) and one part-time position (\$10,000) are necessary to fulfill the statutory requirement imposed on probate clerks. Estimated recurring local government expenditures are \$36,800 (\$20,000 + \$6,800 + \$10,000).
- Extending the time period for beneficiaries of property to file certain disclaimers will result in a not significant impact to the state.

*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: *No law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

/jdb